In England, cows were not slaughtered but only bulls specially nurtured for the purpose of consumption were killed. The agriculturist of the present day felt very great difficulty in his work, because the number of cattle was insufficient. The enormous and frightful infant mortality, the poverty of the soil consequent on the reduction in the number of cattle and the scarcity of good milk, were serious dangers to the economic conditions. His suggestions to improve the situation were,—

(*a*) pasture lands should be opened in every town, especially one in Alleppey, and placed under the Agricultural Department;

(*b*) cattle farming should either be conducted by the Government on a very large scale or private men undertaking to do so should be given decent grants and sites free of cost; and

(*c*) slaughter of cows in the State should be prohibited by means of a Royal Proclamation.

4. The poor people of the country did not know how to save their small earnings and sufficient facilities were not provided. The Government should organise a series of Village Savings Banks and popularise them amongst the people.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.

66. Speedy completion of the Kodimatha landing stage.

Mr. Robert Tait (Member, the Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that, though the improvement of the Kodimatha landing was sanctioned by the Government in 1914, very little work was done in 1915, the amount allotted being largely used to acquire the land. At the last session of the Assembly, the Association's Member asked if the work could be completed ere the monsoon of 1916 broke in. He was informed that the work would be completed, provided the planters lent the necessary funds. Funds were subscribed but the landing was not yet finished. The Member added that the Association had already represented to the Government the importance of the work and the benefits which would accrue from it and requested that the necessary orders might be issued for its speedy completion.

Dewan's reply.—I understand from the Chief Engineer that the work will be finished in another month.

67. The Mundakayam-Ranni Road.

Mr. E. Vincent (Member, the Mundakayam Planters' Association) said that the question of joining up Mundakayam with Ranni was brought up on behalf of his Association at the Assembly held in 1914 and that he had been instructed by his Association to request the Government at the present session of the Assembly to give careful consideration to the scheme which, if carried out, would be of great benefit not only to the planting districts in particular, but also to the agricultural population in general. At the present time, there were two estates in the district—Vellanadi and Cheruvally—each with its own outlet road, the former to Mundakayam and the latter to the road known as the Manimala road between Kanjirappalli and Ranni. The Member's request was that those two estates might be joined up by a road which, with the two estate roads in question, would give a direct connection with Ranni. The mere fact that the cutting up of the above road would place Mundakayam within 50 miles from the Punalur Railway Station was sufficient to warrant the work being taken in hand. The road would, moreover, facilitate communications for a large number of cultivators in and around Chennapadi. The tract would run practically in concurrence with the pilgrim tract to Sabarimalai. It would also facilitate the recruiting of labour in South Travancore and Tinnevelly and would give Peermade and Mundakayam a reserve outlet. The latter consideration was most important, as, during three months of the year, the West Coast Ports were closed and the Kottayam-Kumili road, the present sole outlet, was unused. The distance between the terminus of the road from Mundakayam to Vellanadi and the road from Cheruvalli to Ranni was 6 or 7 miles.

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The Member, in conclusion, requested that the matter might engage the careful attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representation will be referred to the Chief Engineer and, on receipt of his report, necessary action will be taken with due regard to the urgency of this road.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(3) Medical Relief.

68. Mundakayam Hospital and opiates for the use of Estates.

Mr. E. Vincent (Member, the Mundakayam Planters' Association) said that the need for a hospital in Mundakayam was a very urgent one. In the Mundakayam district, there was a floating population of about 15,000 apart from the town of Mundakayam and its outlying villages of Kutikal, Peruvanthanom, etc. The nearest hospital was at Kanjirapalli, 12 miles distant. In Mundakayam itself, there was a District Dispensary with a Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge. The Estate coolies and the local inhabitants could obtain medical relief there, but it was obvious that, without accommodation, the Medical Officers in charge could only treat simple cases, in fact only out-patients. The planting community took the matter of medical relief in hand some years back with the result that there were at present ten fully equipped hospitals in charge of properly qualified Apothecaries for the care and treatment of Estate labour. The local inhabitants, finding it impossible to get into the Government hospital at Kanjirapalli, applied for relief to Estate hospitals and got admission there invariably. Yearly, thousands of coolies were passing through Mundakayam on their way to, and from, planting districts and they received free treatment from Estate hospitals, if they fell ill on the way. In the Mundakayam district alone, the planters would be spending about thirty to forty thousand rupees in 1917 for medical relief. The fact that so many of His Highness' subjects were being treated in the Estate hospitals should surely merit some help from the Government, since the Government were relieved of such a big burden. A few years ago, there was a scheme suggested to build a new Travellers' Bungalow at Mundakayam and convert the present Travellers' Bungalow into a hospital. Perhaps, the scheme fell through on account of financial stringency. But the Member said that a grant-in-aid for the Estate hospitals, or, at least the conversion of the dispensary into a hospital, was a desirable measure and that the Darbar Physician favoured some such relief being granted to the planters.

As regards opiates, the Member said that the issue at stake was the importation of opium and its compounds into the country for medicinal purposes. The importer had first to obtain a British export permit from the Resident and he had then to make an application to the Excise Department for an import permit. The British permit would ordinarily be for a period of one month and his experience was that, before the import permit was obtained from the Excise Department, the period prescribed in the export permit oftentimes expired. To avoid such inconvenience, the Member suggested that arrangements might be made for permits being issued by local Magistrates or that a stock of opiates might be kept in the Government dispensaries and stores. The importation was entirely for medicinal purposes. There could be no objection to guarantees being given to that effect. The Member hoped that the state of affairs complained of by him would soon be remedied by the Government.

Dewan's reply.—The Excise Commissioner will be asked to expedite the issue of import permits. The suggestion to authorise Magistrates to issue such permits does not appear to be feasible. The Member's suggestions about medical relief for Mundakayam will be referred to the Darbar Physician.

(2) Other Industries—(*continued*).

69. Suggestions for the development of Industries in Travancore.

Mr. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) began by saying that the system of imparting education in schools was not conducive to the betterment of

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